

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CU, CS, OAS

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS MAY 31-JUNE 6

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE OASGA AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK.

2. THE VIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 21-30. THE PARTICIPATING FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL HOLD OFF-THE-RECORD TALKS DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS. THEIR FOUR POINT AGENDA INCLUDES THE PANAMA TREATIES, INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS OF THE OAS, ECONOMIC/TRADE ISSUES, AND HUMAN RIGHTS/TERRORISM. A THIRTY-FIVE POINT AGENDA WILL

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BE ADDRESSED IN PUBLIC SESSIONS. SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY ARE PROBABLY THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS ON THE FORMAL AGENDA. MOST ADDRESSEE POSTS WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS NEXT WEEK FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. SCOPE PAPER WILL BE CABLED WHEN COMPLETED FYI.

3. THE COSTA RICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY, WHICH WAS INVITED TO VISIT THE US BY MRS. CARTER LAST YEAR, ARRIVED JUNE 1 FOR A 10-DAY TOUR OF MAJOR EASTERN CITIES. ON JUNE 4, THEY PLAYED AT THE KENNEDY CENTER CONCERT HALL BEFORE MRS. CARTER,

COSTA RICAN FIRST LADY ESTRELLA CARAZO, AND MORE THAN 1900 OTHER INVITED GUESTS. ON JUNE 5, THEY PLAYED OR THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN. PRIOR TO THE CONCERT, RS. CARTER HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR RS. CARAZO. AFTER THE CONCERT MRS. CARTER SIGNED AUTOGRAPHS, POSED FOR PICTURES, AND GAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY A TOUR OF THE WHITE HOUSE. THE GROUP LEFT WASHINGTON JUNE 6 FOR PERFORMANCES IN BALTIMORE, WILMINGTON AND NEW YORK (WHERE THEY WILL PLAY BEFORE THE SSOD). (END UNCLASSIFIED)

(BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL)

4. THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TOOK UP FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE JUNE 2 MEETING THE QUESTION OF OPIC GUARANTEES AND HOW TO APPLY HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA IN LIGHT OF THE HARKIN AMENDMENT TO OPIC LEGISLATION. IN SOME RESPECTS APPLICATION OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CRITERIA TO OPIC PROJECTS MAY BE DIFFICULT AS THEIR PROJECTS ARE COMMERCIAL, NOT CONCESSIONAL, AND INSTEAD IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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WORK OUT A DIFFERENT SET OF CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES, ALONG THE LINES APPLIED TO EXIM. AFTER HEARING EXPRESSIONS OF VARIOUS POINTS O" VIEW, MR. CHRISTOPHER TOOK THE QUESTION UNDER ADVISEMENT. THE ARA ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE FOUR OPIC GUARANTEES IN NICARAGUA AND ONE IN EL SALVADOR. (END CONFIDENTIAL)

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

5. ON JUNE 8, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF VIRON P. VAKY, CURRENTLY SERVING AS AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, TO SUCCEED AMBASSADOR TODMAN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS. (END UNCLASSIFIED)
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